

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 187217  
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

UNCLAS STATE 187217

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:PDI, SL

SUBJECT:PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS: AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS

REF; A) FREETOWN 2180; B) FREETOWN 2072

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF REMARKS TO BE GIVEN BY AMBASSADOR  
LINEHAN AT HIS CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION CEREMONY. BEGIN  
TEXT: YOUR EXCELLENCY, I HAVE THE GREAT HONOR AND PRIVILEGE  
TO PRESENT TO YOU THE LETTER BY WHICH PRESIDENT JIMMY  
CARTER HAS ACCREDITED ME AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND  
PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE  
REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE, ALONG WITH THE LETTER OF RECALL  
OF MY DISTINGUISHED PREDECESSOR, AMBASSADOR MICHAEL A.  
SAMUELS. I TAKE GREAT PLEASURE IN CONVEYING PRESIDENT  
CARTER'S PERSONAL GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES FOR YOUR GOOD  
HEALTH AND SUCCESS AND FOR THE PROSPERITY OF THE GOVERNMENT  
AND PEOPLE OF SIERRA LEONE UNDER YOUR CONTINUED LEADER-  
SHIP.

I HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF SERVING EXTENSIVELY IN WEST  
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AFRICA DURING MY CAREER AS AN AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE  
OFFICER. IT IS A PERSONAL PLEASURE FOR ME TO RETURN TO WEST  
AFRICA AND ESPECIALLY TO HAVE THE HONOR TO SERVE AS UNITED  
STATES AMBASSADOR TO SIERRA LEONE. AS MY FAMILIARITY AND

KNOWLEDGE OF AFRICA AND ITS HISTORY HAVE GROWN I HAVE BE-  
COME DEEPLY IMPRESSED BY THE UNIQUE AND LEADING ROLE SIERRA

LEONE,ITS INSTITUTIONS AND PEOPLE HISTORICALLY HAVE PLAYED IN THE PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF WEST AFRICA. RESPECT FOR THE RIGHTS OF ALL PEOPLE, RECOGNITION OF MUTUAL INTERDEPENDENCE AND A WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE ON MATTERS OF COMMON CONCERN ARE THE FOUNDATION OF THE LONG STANDING AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS THAT HAVE EXISTED BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLES OVER MANY YEARS. BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND SIERRA LEONE WERE FOUNDED UPON A CONCERN FOR HUMAN LIBERTIES. SHARING THIS COMMON FOUNDATION, IT IS NATURAL AND JUST THAT OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS SHOULD WORK TOGETHER TO FURTHER THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND DIGNITY THROUGHOUT AFRICA AND THE WORLD.

I LOOK FORWARD TO THE CONTINUED COOPERATION AND FRIENDSHIP OF OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS IN WORKING FOR THE COMPLETE POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE AND FREEDOM OF ALL THE PEOPLES OF AFRICA AND TO DEVELOPING THE FULL SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL POTENTIAL OF THE PEOPLE OF SIERRA LEONE. LAST YEAR, IN RESPONSE TO THE WISHES OF YOUR GOVERNMENT, A BILATERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM THROUGH THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WAS RESUMED AFTER AN EIGHT YEAR HIATUS. I HOPE THIS PROGRAM WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT OF SIERRA LEONE.

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ACTIVITIES OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS  
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WORKING IN THE VITAL AREAS OF HEALTH, ROADS, WATER SUPPLY, EDUCATION AND AGRICULTURE, THE EXTENSIVE ACTIVITIES OF CARE AND CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES, AND THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO WHICH MY COUNTRY IS A MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR,A US BILATERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WILL PROVIDE A POWERFUL STIMULUS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF SIERRA LEONE'S HUMAN AND NATURAL RESOURCE RICHES. OUR CONCERN FOR SIERRA LEONE'S DEVELOPMENT WAS MOST RECENTLY EXEMPLIFIED BY THE EXTENSION OF FOOD ASSISTANCE. THE SUCCESS OF A US DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO SIERRA LEONE WILL BE BOUNDED ONLY BY OUR MUTUAL RESOURCEFULNESS AND IMAGINATION. I HOPE TO SEE THE FURTHER FRUITS OF OUR JOINT EFFORTS DURING THE PERIOD OF MY STAY HERE.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, I ENTER UPON MY NEW DUTIES WITH ENTHUSIASM AND ANTICIPATION. I LOOK FORWARD TO THE WARM HOSPITALITY FOR WHICH YOUR PEOPLE ARE RENOWNED. I ASSURE YOU, YOUR EXCELLENCY, THAT WITH THE HELP AND SUPPORT OF MY WIFE AND THE STAFF OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, I WILL DEVOTE MY ENERGY TO STRENGTHENING THE GOOD RELATIONS THAT HAPPILY EXIST BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF

AMERICA AND SIERRA LEONE.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, MY WIFE AND I ARE DELIGHTED TO BE HERE  
AND TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK IN CLOSE AND FRIENDLY  
ASSOCIATION WITH YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT.

THANK YOU. END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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